1/27/75

DR. KING BUGGING BY F.B.I. VERIFIED

Ex-Agent Told Watergate Panel That Check in '64 Was Done for Johnson

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26—Senator Howard H. Baker Jr. said today that the Senate Watergate committee had obtained evidence that the Fed- used electronic listening devices against the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the 1964 Democratic National Convention.

Appearing on the ABC television program "Issues and Answers," the Tennessee Republican said he had "sat in" on an interview between Watergate Committee investigators and Leo T. Clark, former agent in charge of the Atlantic City F.B.I. field office, in which Mr. Clark said the electronic surveillance of Dr. King had been conducted for President Johnson.

Sources on the now defunct Watergate committee said that Mr. Clark disclosed that the electronic surveillance of Dr. King had picked up Representatives, Senators and Robert F. Kennedy, then Attorney General, in their private conversations with the civil rights leader.

Not in 1972 Campaign

Mr. Baker said the content of the interview with Mr. Clark had not been made a part of the final Watergate report because "it was not involved in the '72 Presidential campaign."

Two former counsels on the Watergate committee said a memorandum on the Clark interview had been turned over to a Congressional committee. A spokesman for the F.B.I. said the bureau's current director, Clarence M. Kelley, expected to be questioned on the incident during Congressional hearings this week.

The Washington Post reported the Clark interview today. According to its account, Cartha D. DeLoach, then assistant to J. Edgar Hoover. director of the F.B.I., set up a special team of agents to conduct "technical surveillance" (F.B.I. Jargon for wiretapping and bugging) and physical surveillance at the convention. The team was ordered by the Johnson White House, according to the article, and its stated purpose was to gather intelligence on potential violence or disruptions, Mr. Clark told the Senate investigators.

Arranged for Rooms

The Post gave these additional details:

Mr. Clark said he had arranged with the management of Atlantic City's Claridge Hotel to have Dr. King and his party stay in rooms 1901, 1902 and 1923.

He said he stayed in a room a floor below those held by Dr. King. He said the room was used to monitor transmissions of wiretaps and bugs from Dr. King's quarters and from 2414 Atlantic Avenue, a storefront used by the Congress of Racial Equality and other civil rights groups.

The conversations were monitored by F.B.I. agents and also tape recorded. The tape recordings were telephoned to Mr. DeLoach and other agents at a special control center. Mr. Clark said information pertinent to the security responsibilities of the Secret Service and the local police were passed onto those agencies.

"Clark recalls overhearing DeLoach speaking on the telephone to President Johnson and to Director Hoover, giving them summary information from the technical surveallance," the Watergate committee memorandum said.

Denied Talking to Johnson

Mr. DeLoach denied under oath in a 1973 Watergate committee interview that he had a direct line to President Johnson or spoke to him during the convention. Mr. DeLoach was not available for comment today.

In a DeLoach conversation with the President," the Watergate committee memorandum continued, according to the Post, "Clark heard mention of discussions concerning the seating of delegates or delegations," of Vice-Presidential candidate possibilities, and the identities of Congressmen and Senators going in and out of King's quarters."

Mr. Clark, who retired from the F.B.I. in 1965 after 22 years of service had left his New Jerse yhome for a Florida vacation and was not available for comment.

Senator Baker suggested that the newly-created Senate Select Committee on the Intelligence Community might subpoena documents from President Johnson's memorial library in an effort to set the record straight. He also did not rule out the issuing of asubpoena to former President Richard M. Nixon for other testimony.